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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/623,168	07/18/2003	Steven V. Harter	M61.12-0256	2733

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EXAMINER

CAO, PHUONG THAO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2164

DATE MAILED: 07/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/623,168	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HARTER, STEVEN V.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Phuong-Thao Cao	<b>Art Unit</b> 2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 25-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to Amendment filed on 5/17/2006.
2. The amended claims 1-23 and 25-27 overcome the rejection under 35 USC §101. In light of Applicant's clarification regarding the limitation "second property" in claims 3-5, the rejection under 35 USC § 112 is withdrawn.
3. Currently, claims 1-23 and 25-27 are pending.

### *Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments filed 5/17/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding Applicant's argument that the Deffler reference does not teach or suggest "instantiating a property as an object", Deffler et al. teach a meta model including a plurality of classes such as objects, properties and semantics (see Fig. 3 and [column 4, lines 20-40] wherein Property 350 is an example of Property class which can be used to instantiate a Property object) and object and property factory registries including factories such as object factories and property factories to instantiate objects and properties (see [column 5, lines 25-40] wherein the disclosure of instantiating properties also means instantiating a property as a object as object as in Applicant's claim language). Deffler et al. further disclose that Properties may be implemented as a base class that requires programmer subclassing by providing a subclass that

declares the data element and a method for creating an accessor (see [column 8, lines 35-50]) which can be considered as a property object itself because accessor are constructed by the property object to handle the data type of the property (see [column 10, lines 20-42] wherein using an accessor to handle all operations on a property is an implementation to limit the creation, destruction and modification of properties and the disclosure of 'the data members of the properties are made private' [column 10, line 23-25] suggests the term 'properties' or 'property' refers to instantiated object of a property).

Regarding Applicant's argument that the Deffler reference does not teach or suggest applying constraint information to a property of a second object, Deffler et al. teach in [column 9, lines 3-20] that the developer subclasses the appropriate calls, for example UMEPropertySemanticI for modeling rule for a property wherein the appropriate calls provide a way to obtain a modeling rule (equivalent to Applicant's constraint information) and the developer also could implement a fire method to perform desired operations such as invoking semantic at various model modification points wherein fire method is a way to apply modeling rules or semantics to a property item in meta model wherein property is implemented as a class [column 8, lines 35-50] and used as object instantiated from that class [column 5, lines 35-40]. Thus, a property referred in meta model is a property object and the firing of semantics on a property object must include the firing of semantics or applying constraint information as in Applicant's claim language on data members or properties of the property object (see [column 10, lines 1-3 and 22-45]).

Regarding Applicant's statement that none of the proposed combinations is supported by any reasonable objective rationale as to why the proposed combination of references would be obvious to one skilled in the art, all references used relating to managing and validating data in a system and it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teaching in different references to obtain and integrate the benefits of the teaching in the field of data management and validation.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 6-12, 14-17, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Deffler et al. (US Patent No 6,859,919).

As to claim 1, Deffler et al. teach:

“A computer readable medium having instructions for validating data in a database system” (see [column 3, lines 30-55]), the instructions comprising:

“instantiating a property of an object as a second object” (see [column 10, lines 28-42] wherein accessor is an object instantiated based on a property, as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language; also see [column 8, lines 43-50];

“obtaining constraint information pertaining to the property to be validated” (see [column 8, lines 60-65] and [column 9, lines 5-10] wherein the disclosure of UMEPropertySematicI as an interface for any sematic or modeling rule that affects modification of a property, wherein “sematic or modeling rule” as disclosed is equivalent to Applicant’s “constraint information pertaining to the property”, implies the way to obtain constraint information as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language);

“applying constraint information to a property of the second object to ascertain if the property is validated” (see [column 9, lines 3-20] wherein fire method is a way to applying modeling rule to check upon property model to see if it is in an valid state wherein “modeling rule” is equivalent to Applicant’s “constraint information”, also see [column 10, lines 25-43] for the disclosure of object ‘accessor’ constructed to handle the data type of the property and all operations on a property conducted via an accessor wherein “accessor” is equivalent to Applicant’s “second object”, which implies that validation process as disclosed must include the applying of modeling rule to a data element or property of object ‘accessor’, as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

As to claim 6, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“setting the value of the property if the constraint information is met” (see [column 5, lines 15-25], [column 9, lines 5-20] and [column 10, lines 23-35] wherein semantics is equivalent to Applicant’s “constraint information”).

As to claim 7, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 6 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“issuing an event indicating the property is valid” (see [column 6, lines 13-25] wherein the disclosure of providing an indication that the action was successful implies that the property is valid as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

As to claim 8, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“issuing an exception if the constraint information is not met” (see [column 6, lines 13-18] wherein “any one of the set of semantics” is equivalent to Applicant’s “constraint information” and “indication that the action failed” is equivalent to Applicant’s “exception”).

As to claim 9, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“issuing an event indicating the property value is changing” (see [column 5, lines 43-67] and table One for event “PostEdit” which is equivalent to Applicant’s claim language).

As to claim 10, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“issuing an event indicating whether the property value is changeable” (see [column 5, lines 43-67] and table One for event “PreEdit” which is equivalent to Applicant’s claim language).

As to claim 11, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“obtaining a current value of the property” (see [column 10, lines 35-42] wherein the disclosure of way of reading to data element of ‘accessor’ object of the property implies the ability to obtain a current value of the property as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

As to claim 12, Deffler et al. teach:

“A computer readable medium having instructions comprising a framework for validating data in a database system” (see [column 3, lines 30-55]), the instruction comprising:



“identifying at least one property of an entity to be validated” (see [ column 5, lines 35-50] wherein a property to be validated must be identified based on requests in order to invoke respective semantics as disclosed);

“identifying constraint information to be used for ascertaining if said at least one property is valid” (see [column 5, lines 10-50] wherein “semantics” is equivalent to Applicant’s “constraint information”, the respective semantics must be identified in order to be invoked as disclosed and the action of request is successful only when the property is valid [column 6, lines 33-40]);

“forming an object of said at least one property upon execution of said instructions in order to perform validation” (see e.g., [column 10, lines 25-42] discloses accessor as an object constructed to handle all operations on a property which equivalent to Applicant’s claim language).

As to claim 14, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 12 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“identifying events to be issued during validation” (see [column 6, lines 25-55]).

As to claim 15, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 14 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“a notification that a value of the property is changing” (see [column 5, lines 48-55], [column 9, lines 31-38] and Table One wherein event “PreEdit” is equivalent to a notification as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

As to claim 16, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 14 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“a notification that a value of the property has changed” (see [column 5, lines 48-55], [column 9, lines 30-38] and Table One wherein event “PostEdit” is equivalent to a notification as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

As to claim 17, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 14 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“an event to be issued comprises a status of the property has changed” (see [column 5, lines 48-55], [column 9, lines 30-38] and Table One wherein event “PreNull” is equivalent to event to be issued comprises a status of the property has changed as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language since status of the property would be changed from existing to non-existing as considered by the system when a property is destroyed).

As to claim 20, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 12 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“wherein identifying constraint information comprises identifying constraint information comprises identifying valid criteria for a value of the property” (see [column 5, lines 1-25] wherein semantics is equivalent to Applicant’s “constraint information”, locating respective set of property semantics is equivalent to identifying constraint information as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language, and a semantic that enforces the rule “No two columns in a single database table may have the same name” is equivalent to Applicant’s “valid criteria for a value of the property”).

As to claim 21, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 12 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“identifying constraint information comprises identifying criteria of when a value of the property can be changed” (see [column 5, lines 5-25] and [column 6, lines 32-45] wherein semantics is equivalent to Applicant’s “constraint information”, and the disclosure of the change is cancelled if found to be invalid indicates that semantics must provide some criteria to determine when the change would be valid, as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

As to claim 22, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 12 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. teach:

“the criteria identifies that the value can be changed anytime upon execution of the instructions” (see [column 5, lines 5-25] wherein changes made to the respective property according to semantics invoked happen anytime unless one of semantics invoked for an action is violated).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-5 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deffler et al. (US Patent No 6,859,919) as applied to claims 1, 17 and 21 above, and further in view of Stewart et al. (Publication No US 2003/0191731).

As to claim 2, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. do not teach “constraint information comprises a function of the value of the property, and wherein applying constraint information comprises comparing a received value for the property to the constraint information.”

Stewart et al. teach “constraint information comprises a function of the value of the property and wherein applying constraint information comprises comparing a received value for the property to the constraint information” (see Stewart et al., [0036]-[0039], [0097], [0103], [0104] and [0108] wherein Rule is equivalent to Applicant’s “constraint information”, Rule of maximum value is equivalent to Applicant’s “function of the value of the property”, and applying Rule of maximum value and/or minimum value must be done by compared received value to those maximum and/or minimum values as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. by the teaching of Stewart et al., because adding constraint information comprising a function of the value of the property and wherein applying constraint information comprises comparing a received value for the property to the constraint information would enable the system to validate data more effectively based on its value.

As to claim 3, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. do not teach “constraint information comprises a function of status of the second property, and wherein applying constraint information comprises examining the status of the second property”.

Stewart et al. teach “constraint information comprises a function of status of a second property and wherein applying constraint information comprises examining the status of the second property” (see Stewart et al., [0036]-[0039], [0097], [0103], [0104] and [0108] wherein

Rule is equivalent to Applicant's "constraint information", state of the Property is equivalent to Applicant's "a second property" (since value and state of Property are two properties of Data Object of Property), and read-only Rule is equivalent to Applicant's "function of status of a second property", and applying read-only Rule must be done by examining the current state of the Property, as illustrated in Applicant's claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. by the teaching of Stewart et al., because adding constraint information comprising a function of status of a second property and wherein applying constraint information comprises examining the status of the second property would enable the system to validate data more effectively based on its status.

As to claim 4, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 3 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. as modified do not teach "the status of the second property comprises whether its value can be changed."

Stewart et al. teach "the status of the second property comprises whether its value can be changed" (see [0038] wherein the state of the Property is equivalent to Applicant's "the second property", and read-only is the status indicating whether its value can be changed as illustrated in Applicant's claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. by the teaching of Stewart et al., because adding the status of the second property comprises whether its value can be changed would

enable the system to effectively control and enforce the data dependency to assure the correctness and completeness of a data system.

As to claim 5, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 4 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. as modified do not teach “the status of the second property comprises whether its value is valid.”

Stewart et al. teach “the status of the second property comprises whether its value is valid” (see [0038] wherein the state of the Property is equivalent to Applicant’s “the second property”, and valid/invalid is the status indicating whether its value is valid as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. by the teaching of Stewart et al., because adding the status of the second property comprises whether its value is valid would enable the system to effectively validate the data to assure the correctness and completeness of a data system.

As to claim 18, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 17 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. do not teach “the status comprises whether the value of the property is changeable.”

Stewart et al. teach “the status comprises whether the value of the property is changeable” (see [0038] wherein read-only is the status indicating whether the value of the property is changeable as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. by the teaching of Stewart et al., because adding the status comprises whether the value of the property is changeable would enable the system to effectively control and enforce the data dependency to assure the correctness and completeness of a data system.

As to claim 19, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 4 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. as modified do not teach “the status comprises whether the value of the property is valid.”

Stewart et al. teach “the status comprises whether the value of the property is valid” (see [0038] wherein valid/invalid is the status indicating whether the value of the property is valid as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. by the teaching of Stewart et al., because adding the status comprises whether the value of the property is valid would enable the system to effectively validate the data to assure the correctness and completeness of a data system.



5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deffler et al. (US Patent No 6,859,919) as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Alexander (US Patent No 6,732,331).

As to claim 13, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 12 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. do not teach “identifying a validator of a function of a type of said at least one property, the validator being of a class of validators.”

Alexander teaches “identifying a validator of a function of a type of said at least one property, the validator being of a class of validators” (see Alexander, [column 6, lines 5-15], [column 13, lines 42-65] and [column 7, lines 35-45] wherein each control is equivalent to Applicant’s “property”).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. by the teaching of Alexander, since identifying a validator of a function of a type of said at least one property and the validator being of a class of validators enables to validate data more effectively and efficiently and provides the benefit of code reusability.

6. Claims 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deffler et al. (US Patent No 6,859,919) as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Pastor et al. (US Patent No 6,681,383).

As to claim 23, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 21 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. do not teach “the criteria identifies that the value can be changed as a function of creation of a corresponding entity.”

Pastor et al. teach “the criteria identifies that the value can be changed as a function of creation of a corresponding entity” (see e.g., [column 11, lines 25-35] and [column 15, lines 40-45] disclose that the number of books of reader is incremented as an instance of the loan class is created which is equivalent to Applicant’s claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. by the teaching of Pastor et al., since including the criteria identifies that the value can be changed as a function of creation of a corresponding entity enable to the system to model and validate effectively data and the relationship between objects and data.

As to claim 25, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 21 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. do not teach “the criteria identifies that the value can be changed as a function of a status value of another property.”

Pastor et al. teach “the criteria identifies that the value can be changed as a function of a status value of another property” (see e.g., [column 11, lines 25-35] and [column 15, lines 40-45] disclose that the number of books of reader is incremented as the state of the book changed to “not available” which is equivalent to Applicant’s claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. by the teaching of Pastor et al., since including the criteria identifies that the value can be changed as a function of creation of a corresponding entity enable to the system to model and validate effectively data and the relationship between data.

7. Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deffler et al. (US Patent No 6,859,919) as modified by Pastor et al. (US Patent No 6,681,383) as applied to claim 25 above, and further in view of Stewart et al. (Publication No US 2003/0191731).

As to claim 26, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 25 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. as modified do not teach “the status value comprises whether said another property is changeable.”

Stewart et al. teach “the status value comprises whether said another property is changeable” (see [0038] wherein read-only is the status indicating whether the value of the property is changeable as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. as modified by the teaching of Stewart et al., because adding the status value comprises whether another property is changeable would enable the system to effectively control and enforce the data dependency to assure the correctness and completeness of a data system.

As to claim 27, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 26 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Deffler et al. as modified do not teach “the status value comprises whether said another property is valid.”

Stewart et al. teach “the status value comprises whether said another property is valid” (see [0038] wherein valid/invalid is the status indicating whether the value of the property is valid as illustrated in Applicant’s claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Deffler et al. as modified by the teaching of Stewart et al., because adding the status comprises whether the value of the property is valid would enable the system to effectively validate the data to assure the correctness and completeness of a data system.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant’s disclosure.

Mc George JR. (Publication No US 2002/0095406) teaches a system and method for validating data submitted to a database application including an exception set class.

Pascoe et al. (US Patent No 5,778,369) teach method and apparatus for managing exceptions.

*Conclusion*

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong-Thao Cao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2735. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Mon - Fri).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Phuong-Thao Cao

July 12, 2006

*Julie S. Nassum*  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2167